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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY ESTONIA/USSR

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SUBJECT The New Government

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. In March 1947, after the February elections, the government of the Estonian SSR was reorganized. It is now as follows:

a. Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet

Chairman	Eduard Põll
Deputy Chairmen	Nigul Andreessen and A. Treiberg
Secretary	Telling

b. Supreme Soviet

This legislative body consists now of eighty-two Estonians, fourteen Russians, one White Russian, and two nationals of small Russian groups. Of the delegates, 76% are males, 24% females, 46% laborers, 17% peasants, and 37% employees.

c. Board of Ministers (formerly, Board of People's Commissars)

Minister President	Arnold Veimer
Deputies of Min. Pres.	Endel Puusepp, K. Bõitsov, Hallik, A. Kress, and O. Sõpre
Minister of Industry	Sukharev
Minister of Education	Arnold Raud
Minister of Fishery	Karl Raud
Minister of Commerce	Augustin Hansen
Minister of Security	Boris Kumm
Minister of Interior	Aleksander Reeser
Minister of Social Care	Olga Lauristin
Minister of Sovhoses	Alfred Mõtus
Minister of Justice	Jõekäär
Min. of Local Industry	Matveyev
Minister of Agriculture	Mõe
Minister of Finance	Paul Koerdo
Minister of War	Lt. Gen. L. Põrn
Min. of Public Health	V. Hion
Min. of Foreign Affairs	Prof. Hans Kruus
Min. of State Control	Artur Vaha
Min. of Collective Econ.	L. Georg
Min. of Motion Pictures	August Raadik
Other ministers	Ristimägi and Volin

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Next Review Date: 2008

2. The following members of the Board of Ministers were held over from the Board of People's Commissars: Veimer, Bõitsov, Arnold Raud, Karl Raud, Hansen, Lauristin,

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- 2 -

Jõeäär, Keerdo, Pärn, Hion, Georg, and Vaha. The Ministries of Technical Agriculture, Cattle-breeding and Agricultural Labor have been united into the new Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministries of Sovhoses (State Farms) and Motion Pictures are new.

3. Information concerning members of the new Estonian Government has been obtained as follows:

- a. Eduard Päll was born in Russia of Estonian parents. He received a Communist education in Russia and came to Estonia in 1940 during the Russian occupation. He was editor of the newspaper "Kommunist" and was later Chairman of the Board of People's Commissars. Since 1944 he has been propaganda secretary of the Communist Party in Estonia. From 1945 to 1947 he has been an Estonian delegate to the People's Soviet of the USSR. In his present position he succeeds J. Vares-Barbarus, an Estonian writer who died in December 1946.
- b. Nigul Andreesen in 1946 was Deputy Chairman of the Board of Ministers, specializing in cultural affairs. He has held his present position since November 1946.
- c. A. Treiberg is a Russian from Narva and was little known before his nomination at the 1947 elections.
- d. Arnold Veimer was People's Commissar for the Light Industry during the first Russian occupation. He is the author of a book, Economic Problems of the Estonian SSR, and is an Estonian delegate to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.
- e. Endel Puusepp is a "Hero of the Soviet Union" and was until recently a transportation official.
- f. K. Boitsov is a Russian who has long been prominent in Soviet Estonian affairs.
- g. O. Sepre has been and still is the leader of the State Planning Committee. He is also a corresponding member of the Soviet-Estonian Academy of Sciences, established in 1946.
- h. Sukharev is a Russian of whom nothing is known.
- i. Arnold Raud has been Minister of Education since December 1946. He was born in Estonia, was released from the seminary in Rakvere during World War I, was drafted into the Czarist Army, came to Russia and stayed there. In the fall of 1940 he joined the Communist Party and returned to Estonia. He was then leader of the school division of the Central Committee of the Estonian Communist Party. Together with the Russian Perov (who is now again in Estonia), delegate of the Russian Communist Party to the Soviet-Estonian People's Commissariat for Education, he wielded absolute power over all Estonian schools from 1940 to 1941. In 1941 he fled to Russia, from which place he returned in the fall of 1946.
- j. Boris Kumm, now Minister of Security, was formerly Minister of the Interior. He is an Estonian delegate to the People's Soviet of the USSR.
- k. Olga Lauristin is the widow of Johannes Lauristin, Soviet-Estonian Minister President from 1940 to 1941 who was killed by Estonian nationalists in 1941. She fled to Russia in 1941 and returned to Estonia in 1944. She is an Estonian delegate to the People's Soviet of the USSR.
- l. The Russian Matveyev was formerly Deputy Minister of Local Industry and has now replaced his former superior, the Estonian Tohver.

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- 3 -

- m. Lieutenant General L. Pärn commanded during the war an Estonian corps which fought on the Russian side. He is a delegate to the People's Soviet of the USSR.
- n. Professor Hans Kruus was Foreign Minister from 1945 to 1946 and was a Soviet-Estonian delegate at the Paris Peace Conference (under protests from loyal Estonians abroad). He is Chairman of the Soviet-Estonian Academy of Sciences.
- o. He was formerly Minister of Agricultural Labor. This position has been abolished.
- p. Artur Vaha is President of the Soviet-Estonian Supreme Court as well as Minister of State Control.
- q. Matveyev, Minister of Industry, until recently was director of the oil plant at Kivioli. It is not known whether he still holds that position.

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